BOROUGH OF DEVIZES

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1969

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AND

THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1969

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DEVIZES BOROUGH COUNCIL
(As at 31st December 1969)

THE MAYOR

Councillor Frederick George Kirby

THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Alderman A.H. Weston

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Chairman	Alderman A.P.J. Duck
The Mayor	Councillor F.G. Kirby
Vice-Chairman	Councillor Somerville D.F.C.

Alderman Mrs. Payne
Alderman Wilson
Councillor Bailey
Councillor Cockram
Councillor Godwin
Councillor Peart
Councillor Mrs. Rugg
Councillor Wheeler

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Staff as at 31st December, 1969

Medical Officer of Health

P.C. BARRY, L.R.C.P. & S.I., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

K. WILDEY, M.P.H.I.A., C.R.S.I., C.G.L.I.(San. Eng.)

Technical Assistant

D.A.J. DARK

Rodent Operative

F.W. BARRETT (Retired September 1969)

W.J. HARRISON (Commenced October 1969)

Clerical Staff

MRS. E.E. NOAKES

MISS L.J. SAYER (Resigned May 1969)

MISS L.M. DUNNADGE (Commenced July 1969)

BOROUGH OF DEVIZES

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
NORTHGATE HOUSE,
DEVIZES,
WILTSHIRE

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Devizes.

In presenting my Annual Report on the health of the Borough, in respect of the year 1969, I am pleased to point to the fact that the year was not notable for any remarkable incidence of disease. This is naturally as one wishes it to be.

Infectious diseases, formerly the cause of so much morbidity and mortality amongst the community have, as a result of such factors as the development of prophylactic immunisation and drugs combined with favourable environmental changes, diminished in frequency and gravity. With the passage of time and further developments this favourable trend should continue.

For the first time in any one year for which figures are available, the number of births reached 200. The increase is a reasonable expectation having due regard for the increased population. Compared to last year there was a small reduction in the total number of deaths of which the most common causes were Coronary Thrombosis and Cerebrovascular disease. This is in line with the pattern established over recent years.

I am pleased to report the opening and full occupation of a Group Dwelling for the elderly. This is a two-storey building consisting of 16 single and 14 two person units of accommodation. It is under the supervision of a resident Warden. This goes some way to catering for the needs of the ever-increasing number of the no-longer-young in the community and does credit to all concerned with its planning and construction.

During the year modern apparatus was installed in the swimming pool for the purification and heating of the water. These improvements are much appreciated by the swimming public whose numbers should continue to increase in the years ahead.

The year saw the cessation of the sale of unpasteurised bottled milk in the Borough. Such an event probably went unnoticed by the majority of the community but it nevertheless represented a big step forward in Public Health.

As mentioned in my reference to the number of births, there has again been a sharp rise in the population of the Borough. From figures supplied by the Registrar General it appears that the population has gone up by 900 in the past year. This appreciable number represents an increase of over 9%. Whilst a continuation of this rate of increase cannot be foreseen in the immediate future, its possibility cannot be discounted.

/Increased .....

Increased numbers of persons will obviously put increased demands on the existing services and those which come readily to mind as being connected with community health are water supply and sewage disposal. Under the appropriate headings further mention is made of these two important matters.

Additional housing accommodation will be required at a rate commensurate with the rise in population. An increased need for suitable units of housing accommodation for the increasing number of elderly in the community can be foreseen. Whilst the day when there will no longer be a need for housing accommodation for the handicapped and under-privileged cannot be anticipated regardless of our wishes on the matter. The availability of houses will attract people to the Town, whilst the continued demolition of outdated, outmoded and otherwise unsuitable dwellings will increase the need for housing provision. It is to be hoped that as a result of public and private enterprise in the matter of construction that those searching for suitable accommodation will not be forced to search too long in vain.

I foresee the requirement for enhanced medical services in the form of increased hospital accommodation. Such changes as may be indicated in this direction are not within my making and we must hope that those in whose hands the power lies, will see their way to wielding such powers to meet the needs rather sooner than later.

It hardly needs mention here but it is put in for good measure, that our increasing population will require additional medical services in the form of more family doctors to cope with the added work. In this connection also one looks to the future in the hope that Medical Practitioners will be attracted to the Borough in numbers sufficient to ensure that the public never run the risk of being over-doctored or the doctors over-worked.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Public Health Inspector, Mr. K. Wildey, for the services that he has continued to render to the Borough. With the ever-changing and ever-increasing legislation and Regulations, intended to benefit the health of the community, his duties, whilst altering over the years in content, continue to increase enormously in quantity. I am grateful to him for his assistance to me throughout the year and for his contribution to this report.

/During .....

During the year the Department lost the services of one Junior Clerk and fortunately succeeded in recruiting a replacement after a not too lengthy interval. To them both, for the help they have given to the Senior Clerk/Typist, in the most successful discharge of her duties, I offer my thanks.

In conclusion I thank th Technical Assistant for the good work which he has done and similarly the Rodent Operative. In the latter appointment a personnel change became necessary with the retirement of Mr. Barrett after 15 years loyal and faithful service to the Department and to his native Town.

P.C. BARRY

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	1,420
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	10,310
Number of habitable dwellings at 1.4.70	3,142
Rateable Value at 1.4.70	£437,637
Estimated Product of 1d rate at 1.4.70	£1,730

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 population
*Standardised

	Birth Rate		Death Rate	
	1968	1969	1968	1969
Devizes Borough	18.5	18.9	10.8	8.8
England and Wales	16.9	16.3	11.9	11.9
Wiltshire	17.5	17.6	10.9	10.7

*Comparability figures are supplied to each District by the Registrar General. These take into account the varying age-sex distribution of the population in different parts of the country. When applied to the local rates they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas.

Vital Statistics (Contd.)

MOTHERS AND INFANTS

	1969	1968	1967
Live Births			
Number	195	174	138
Rate per 1000 population	18.9	18.5	15.3
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	7	7.5	10.1
Stillbirths			
Number	5	3	-
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	25	16.9	-
Total Live and Still Births	200	177	138
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	4	2	1
Infant Mortality Rates			
Total Infant Deaths under 1 year per 1000 total live births	21	11.5	7
Legitimate infant deaths under 1 year per 1000 legitimate live births	11	12.4	8
*Illegitimate infant deaths under 1 year per 1000 illegitimate live births	154	-	-
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1000 total live births)	15	11.5	7
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1000 total live births)	15	5.7	7
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined, per 1000 total live and still births)	40	22.6	7

*Information not available for 1967 and 1968.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1969

The figures given below are taken from the Registrar General's Annual Report :-

	Male	Female	Total
Other tuberculosis, incl. late effects	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	3	2	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	2	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	2	0	2
Other malignant neoplasms	2	2	4
Anaemias	1	0	1
Other diseases of blood, etc.	1	0	1
Meningitis	1	0	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	1	2
Hypertensive disease	0	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	20	11	31
Other forms of heart disease	4	3	7
Cerebrovascular disease	11	14	25
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	6	9
Pneumonia	6	4	10
Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	0	2
Asthma	1	0	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	1	1
Peptic ulcer	0	1	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	0	2	2
Other diseases of digestive system	1	2	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0	1
Other disease, genito-urinary system	2	0	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	0	1	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	1	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	0	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	6	12	18
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	2	1	3
Total all causes	79	73	152

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Table A below gives details of cases notified by general practitioners during the past six years and Table B gives details of the age incidence of cases notified in 1969.

TABLE A

Disease	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Measles	155	147	88	92	10	68
Whooping Cough	3	-	-	6	-	-
Scarlet Fever	6	11	11	11	8	3
Tuberculosis	2	3	3	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	2	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	5	2	1	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	1	-	-	-

TABLE B

Disease	Age Groups					Age not known	All Ages
	0-4	5-14	15-44	45-64	65-74		
Scarlet Fever	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Measles	47	17	1	-	-	3	68
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

For providing the figures for immunisations and vaccinations carried out in the district during the year, my thanks are due to the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C.D.L. Lycett.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisations

Year of Birth		1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1960 - 64	1954 - 59	Others under 16
Primary Imms. completed during 1969	Diph.	80	72	1	1	1	1	-	-
	Wh/c	80	72	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Tet.	80	72	1	1	1	1	-	3
	Measles	-	15	39	21	9	15	2	-
	Polio.	74	72	1	-	1	14	-	-
Reinf. injects administered during 1969	Diph.	-	32	54	5	3	132	4	-
	Wh/c	-	31	46	3	-	7	-	-
	Tet.	-	32	54	5	3	133	5	-
	Polio.	-	31	54	4	3	117	1	-

Smallpox Vaccinations

	Months				Years		
Age Group	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	59	34	16
Re-vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	-	32

FAMILY PLANNING

A long-felt need was satisfied when the Family Planning Association commenced their activities in the Borough during the year. Sessions are held at the Clinic, New Park Street on two evenings each month and are well patronised.

WATER SUPPLY

The Town is supplied with wholesome water in a quantity sufficient to meet the needs of the existing population. Should the population continue to rise the requirements of water must naturally rise also. We look to the future in the hope that our Undertaking i.e. the North Wilts Water Board will not be found wanting.

From time to time complaints are received by the Officers of the Health Department about the taste and/or the colour of water in various parts of the Town. The complaints are always investigated. Such investigations are additional to the routine sampling of supplies which is carried out periodically by the Public Health Inspector. The object of such sampling is to subject the water to bacteriological testing. As will be seen from perusal of the report all but one sample so tested gave a satisfactory result.

My reference to water supplies would not be complete if I were to omit mention of fluoridation. I regret to report that so far as this health measure is concerned, the situation remains unchanged from 1968 i.e. fluoride is not being added to our supplies, despite the wishes of our Council.

SEWERAGE

In my report for the year 1968 I dealt in some length with the situation regarding sewage disposal in the Borough.

The arrangements remain unchanged in that the sewage is dealt with by two sewage plants one of which is in the Borough and the other just outside the boundary. The arrangements for sampling and testing the effluent from both plants are in the hands of the Bristol Avon River Authority who report their findings to the Borough Surveyor.

During the year four samples from each plant were tested. The results in so far as the plant maintained by the Borough is concerned were satisfactory on all occasions, whilst two were found to be satisfactory in the case of the plant situated outside the Borough in the grounds of Roundway Hospital.

The matter of sludge disposal continues to cause a problem and it is felt that with the continuing rise in the population, this problem will continue to increase unless and until alternative methods of sludge disposal are brought into operation.

PET MEAT

The sale of meat intended for cats and dogs formerly raised health problems due to loopholes in the existing legislation. I am pleased to report that as a result of new legislation i.e. the Meat (Sterilization) Regulations 1969 which came into force later in the year, the loopholes would appear to have been adequately sealed. I look with some confidence to the future in the hope that purveyors of fresh pet meat, if continuing in business, will elect to operate in areas other than Devizes.

MILK

There are nine licensed milk dealers in the Borough operating from three dairies, five shops and two vending-machines.

Results of cleanliness tests taken of samples during the year by the Public Health Laboratory at Salisbury are shown in the Table below :-

	Pass	Fail
Raw Milk	12	7
Pasteurised Milk	33	3
	45	10

Regarding the failure of the three pasteurised milk samples the Bacteriologist reported the atmospheric shade temperature to be 69°F "just below the void" level when they were tested.

The cause of the failure of four of the untreated samples of milk to pass the cleanliness test was investigated by the Milk Production Officer on the farms concerned and follow-up samples proved to be satisfactory. The failure of the remaining three untreated samples was due to irregular rotation in one of the vending machines. The dealer was instructed to withdraw milk for sale until the faulty machine had been corrected.

Six samples of raw milk were also examined for brucellosis and tuberculosis with negative results.

Bacteriological examination of bottles prepared for filling with milk were carried out with satisfactory results in all cases.

POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no poultry processing premises within the Borough of Devizes.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

The number of food premises subject to these Regulations grouped in categories of trades carried on in them is as follows :-

	No. of Premises
Dairies	4
Fish Shops (Wet)	1
Fish Shops (Fried)	5
Restaurants, Cafes, Etc.	17
Hospitals, Institutions	6
School Canteens	8
Factory and Works Canteens	6
Licensed Premises	25
Mobile Vans	2
Sweet Shops	6
Bread & Confectionery	5
Market Stalls	21
Public Buildings	2
Guest Houses	2
Hotels	10
Grocers	18
Butchers	5
Greengrocers	5
Multiple Stores	1
Supermarket	2
Clubs etc.	9
TOTAL ...	160

Progress Returns
forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government

A. Houses demolished -		
Adjoining Clearance Areas	....	0
Not in or adjoining Clearance areas	....	7
B. Unfit houses closed during year	....	1
C. Persons displaced		
From houses to be demolished	....	0
From houses to be closed	....	3
D. Families displaced during year		
From houses to be demolished	....	0
From houses to be closed	....	1
E. Unfit houses made Fit		
By Owner (after informal action by Local Authority)	....	3
After formal Notice under Sections 9 and 16 of Housing Act 1957 (a) by owner	....	0
(b) by local authority	....	0
F. Houses in which defects were remedied		
After formal notice under Public Health Acts	....	4
G. Unfit houses in temporary use	....	0
H. Purchase of houses by Agreement (Houses in Clearance areas other than those included in Confirmed Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders)	....	10

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7 unfit houses demolished in High Street (site to be used for Car Park and Shop redevelopment)

1 unfit house closed in St. John's Alley owing to the impracticability of demolition.

10 houses purchased by agreement are situated in the Hare and Hounds redevelopment area.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the Borough.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Discretionary Grants

Applications received during the year	2
Applications approved during the year	2
Grants paid - approved expense	£1,782
Number of dwellings -	2
Amount paid -	£765. 7. 0.

Standard Grants

Applications received during the year		10
Applications approved during the year -		
Owner/occupied		9
Other		1
Grants paid - number of dwellings -		11
amount paid -		£1,238. 17. 9.
Amenities provided :-		
Fixed baths	5	
Wash-hand basins	6	
Hot water supply -		
3 points	4	
2 points	5	
Water closets	8	
*Sinks	3	
*Food storage facilities	3	
Additional grant-aided work -		
Number of bathrooms added	2	
Number of piped water supplies installed	0	
Number of septic tank or cesspool drainage systems installed	0	

*The Housing Act 1969 which came into operation on the 25th August 1969 increased the scale of grants and stipulated that the provision of sinks was applicable for grant aid and that food storage accommodation was no longer considered applicable.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply has remained satisfactory in quantity and quality. Raw samples of water continue to be taken regularly from sources at Shepherds Shore and Bourton by the North Wilts Water Board, for bacteriological testing at the Pathological Laboratory. All reports have been satisfactory.

Samples of water from the Town's mains have been taken from taps both by the Water Board and Public Health Inspector. The unsatisfactory sample was reported to be polluted to a very small degree with non-faecal type coliform organisms only, requiring no investigation :-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Results of samples taken by North Wilts Water Board	29	1
Results of samples taken by Public Health Inspector	11	0

Number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains 3,141

Number of population supplied from public water mains 10,309

Number of dwelling houses supplied by means of standpipes 1

Number of population supplied by means of standpipes 1

Fluoride content of water supplied from Bourton and Shepherds Shore to Borough ..... less than ..... 0·1

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of Premises registered during the year	Number of Registered Premises at end of year	Number of Registered Premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	4	43	13
Retail Shops	3	111	40
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	3	1
Catering Establishments open to the Public, Canteens etc.	2	14	10
Fuel Storage Depots	0	2	2
Totals	10	173	66

Number of visits to all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered Premises 142

Number of persons employed in registered premises 980
(372 males and 608 females)

All premises registered under the above-mentioned Act have now received an inspection.

Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions Found		Section	Number of Contraventions Found	
4	Cleanliness	2	14	Seats (sedentary workers)	0
5	Overcrowding	0	15	Eating facilities	0
6	Temperature	0	16	Floors, passages & stairs	5
7	Ventilation	0	17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery etc.	0
8	Lighting	0	18	Protection of younger persons from dangerous machinery	0
9	Sanitary Conveniences	0	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	0
10	Washing facilities	1	23	Prohibition of heavy work	0
11	Supply of drinking water	0	24	First-aid general provisions	4
12	Clothing accommodation	0		Total	12
13	Sitting facilities	0			

RODENT CONTROL

The Devizes Borough Council continue to share on half-time basis, the services of the Rodent Operative with the Devizes Rural District Council satisfactorily.

77 of the 300 sewer manholes were test-baited. A heavy infestation was discovered in St. John Street and minor degrees of infestations were found at Liberal Club, Chivers' Yard, The Brittox, New Park Street, Wharf Street and the Repository.

Below is a Table extracted from the annual report as supplied to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the year under review :-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS		
1. Number of properties in district	3961	12
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	64	0
(b) Number infested by		
(i) Rats	58	0
(ii) Mice	6	0
3. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1552	3
Number infested by		
(i) Rats	46	3
(ii) Mice	9	0

The Rodent Operative also dealt promptly with complaints arising from infestations of wasps, woodworm, moles, ants, cockroaches, woodlice and flies.

SUMMARY OF DUTIES

1969

Visits made in respect of :-

Housing	93
Multiple Letting	4
Dangerous Buildings	2
Improvement Grants	41
Food Hygiene Premises	227
Meat Inspection	24
Food Inspections	25
Sampling) Milk	44
) Water	3
) Ice Cream	11
Food & Drugs Act (Ice Cream etc. Sect. 16)	25
Dairy Inspections	8
Petroleum Acts	139
Pressure Tests	6
Ullage Tests	1
Rodent Control	132
Pest Infestation	15
Complaints -	
Miscellaneous	25
Clean Air	3
Noise	6
Factories Inspections	3
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act Inspections	123
Caravan Sites	1
Scrap Metal Dealers	1
Agricultural Welfare	8
Zymotics	2
Interviews with builders/owners/architects	45
Works in Progress	49
Miscellaneous Visits	150
Drainage Work (repairs or renewal)	20

APPENDIX

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1969 FOR THE BOROUGH OF DEVIZES IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	0	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	45	3	0	0
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	5	5	0	0
TOTAL	51	8	0	0

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2)	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing Apparel) Making) etc.,) Cleaning) and) Washing	0	0	0	0	0	0